

TEXAS HERITAGE MUSIC FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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KERRVILLE— The Texas Heritage Music Foundation is proclaiming the weekend of **September 24 – 26, 2004** as **Texas Heritage Living History Weekend**.

Plans are already under way for the eighth edition of this very unique and hugely popular community education event billed as "Another Way of Learning: Using Stories and Songs." Produced by THMF since its 1996 inception and originally presented as a one-day event on the banks of the Guadalupe River at Kerrville's Louise Hays Park, Texas Heritage Living History Weekend is now held on the campus of Schreiner University and has grown into a three-day celebration of Texas heritage and history.

More than 2000 people are expected for the Friday, September 24th opening event at the Robbins-Lewis Pavilion on Schreiner University campus that will be featuring over forty performers, presenters and educators. Beginning at 9 a.m. and lasting until 3 p.m., the unique and varied line-up will include Old West and Native American demonstrators; Texas history re-enactment groups; chuck wagons and teepees; noted storytellers; Texas Heritage demonstrators and educational exhibits; numerous staging areas for musical performers; champion trick ropers and tomahawk throwers; and central to the event, the songs and stories of music legend Jimmie Rodgers, as performed by local actor Tony Navarra.

"COMMITTED TO THE BELIEF THAT TELLING STORIES AND SINGING SONGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE"

Since 1997, Navarra has told the stories of Jimmie Rodgers and his association with country music, Texas and specifically, Kerrville. Rodgers, hailed as the "Father of Country Music," resided in Kerrville during the last years of his life and was one of the three original inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame, and of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Texas Heritage Living History Weekend continues on Saturday, September 25th with a **Texas Heritage Seminar**, to be held at the Cailloux Center from 10 a.m. to noon. The discussion panel will consist primarily of music scholars and authors and the seminar will include educational presentations important to area educators and historians. THMF Executive Director Dr. Kathleen Hudson will moderate.

Texas Heritage Living History Weekend will wrap up with a **Literacy and Learning Benefit Concert** on Sunday, September 26th at Schreiner University's Dietert Auditorium at 3 p.m. Tickets will be \$15 each and proceeds from the concert will benefit both the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund and Families and Literacy. The featured performer will be announced at a later date. Previous benefit concert performers include Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Little Joe Y la Familia, Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, and Ruthie Foster with Cyd Cassone.

Thanks to local funding support, Friday and Saturday's events are free and open to the public. All schools are invited, and educational packages will be available. Transportation grants to rural school and youth at risk academies and programs are available upon request.

The website is www.texasheritagemusic.org. Call Kathleen Hudson for information at 830-367-3750.